

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 through 36 were previously cancelled.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A system for signaling content quality of preexisting digital data between digital devices including a digital source and data, to a digital receiver, the preexisting digital data having a plurality of data records, at least one record, the at least one record each of the plurality of data records having a plurality of data fields, at least one data field, the system comprising:

assignment means for assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting digital data ~~for~~ using at least one or more predefined sets of criteria;
and,

means for marking the preexisting digital data with the assigned grade without changing and without accessing the content of the preexisting digital data;

wherein the digital receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the preexisting digital data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting digital data without ~~having to access~~ accessing the preexisting data digital data;

whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the marked grade for another subsequent use of the preexisting digital data without accessing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating a portion of a ~~filename~~ file name to the assigned grade.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 38 wherein the ~~filename~~ file name corresponds to a file containing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating a grade file with the assigned grade.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the ~~at least one data field~~ plurality of data fields.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the ~~at least one record~~ the plurality of data records.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 42 wherein a

particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the ~~at least one record~~ the plurality of data records.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 42 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular field of the ~~at least one particular field~~ plurality of data fields.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is a predefined function.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content accesses a database.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content uses access to an independent database.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the assigned grade is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for associating the assigned grade to a data set.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for assigning a grade ~~determining the quality~~ is selected by the digital receiver.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 further comprising means for assigning a rating as a function of the assigned grade.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 37 wherein a different one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for assigning a grade ~~determining the quality~~ provides a different assigned grade for the preexisting data.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A method for signaling content quality of preexisting digital data between digital devices including a digital source and ~~data, to a~~ digital receiver, the preexisting digital data having a plurality of data records, ~~at least one record, the at least one record~~ each of the plurality of data records having a plurality of data

~~fields, at least one data field,~~ the method comprising the following steps:

assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting digital data ~~for~~ using at least one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

marking the preexisting digital data with the assigned grade without changing and without accessing the content of the preexisting digital data;

wherein the digital receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the preexisting digital data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting data ~~without having to access~~ the preexisting digital data;

whereby another digital receiver can independently determine suitability from the marked grade for another subsequent use of the preexisting digital data without accessing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating a portion of a ~~filename~~ file name to the assigned grade.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 55 wherein the ~~filename~~ file name corresponds to a file containing the preexisting digital data.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating a grade file with the assigned grade.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular data field of the ~~at least one data field~~ plurality of data fields.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the ~~at least one record~~ the plurality of data records.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 59 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular record of the ~~at least one record~~ the plurality of data records.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 59 wherein a particular quality of the content corresponds to a particular field of the ~~at least one record~~ the plurality of data records.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is a predefined function.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the

content accesses a database.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content is an externally defined function.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for determining the quality of the content uses access to an independent database.

Claim 66 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein the assigned grade is a numeric value, a color, or a Boolean.

Claim 67 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of associating the assigned grade to a data set.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for assigning a grade ~~determining the quality~~ is selected by the digital receiver.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 further comprising the step of assigning a rating as a function of the assigned grade.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 54 wherein a different one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria for assigning a grade ~~determining the quality~~ provides a different assigned grade for the preexisting digital data.